

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 L-03 TRSE-00 OPIC-12

JUSE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 INRE-00

NSCE-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 RSR-01 /096 W
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O 082050 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6415

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 0725

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EIND, HA

SUBJECT: RUMORS OF GOH " EXPROPRIATION" OF US COMPANY ASSETS
ON TORTUGA

REF: P- AU- P 676; AMBASSADOR KNOX/ CHARGE TELECON MAY 8

1. ACCOMPANIED BY ECONOMIC OFFICER I CALLED ON COMMERCE MINISTER FOURCAND MAY 8 IN ABSENCE CINEAS, FRANCISQUE AND RAYMOND, TO ALERT HIM TO RUMORS OF GOH " EXPROPRIATION" OF US COMPANY ASSETS ON TORTUGA, ADVERSE EFFECT OF THESE RUMORS ON US INVESTORS' RELATIONS WITH BANKERS, AND DESIRABILITY OF GOH STATEMENT TO CLEAR THE AIR. I CITED PARTICULAR CASE OF TRANSLINEAR, WHICH HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF AMBASSADOR KNOX IN WASHINGTON BY TRANSLINEAR HEADQUARTERS.

2. IN SUMMARY, AFTER DISCUSSION OF DUPONT CARIBBEAN AND TRANSLINEAR SITUATIONS AND DIGRESSIONS ONTO HEMO CARIBBEAN AND NEW HAITI NORTH (REPORTED SEPARATELY), FOURCAND SET FORTH POSITION WHICH MAY BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A. HE WOULD TRY TO FIND A WAY OF EXPRESSING GOH VIEW.
IN THIS REGARD HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT PRESIDENT
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JEAN- CLAUDE DUVALIER MAKE A PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENT
OF GENERAL GOH RECEPTIVENESS TO FOREIGN INVEST-
MENTS WITH PASSING MENTION OF GOOD FAITH AND
GOOD REPUTATION OF TRANSLINEAR.

B. HE HAD SEEN CARDEN OF TRANSLINEAR SHORTLY BEFORE MY CALL AND HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE CONSIDERED PIERSON "NOT SERIOUS" AND WOULD PERSONALLY BE HAPPY TO DEAL WITH TRANSLINEAR. HE COULD NOT SPEAK PUBLICLY OF NEGOTIATION WITH TRANSLINEAR BUT COULD SPEAK OF WHAT TRANSLINEAR HAD DONE. PIERSON HAD A CONTRACT AND AS LONG AS THIS CONTRACT EXISTED ONE COULD NOT DEAL WITH ANYONE ELSE.

3. AMBASSADOR CHALMERS IS DUE BACK IN PORT- AU- PRINCE MAY 8 OR MAY 8, ACCORDING FOURCAND. WITHOUT SAYING SO, FOURCAND CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT CHALMERS IS RETURNING IN PART IN CONNECTION WITH INVESTMENT QUESTIONS AND THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH CHALMERS THE PROBLEM OF A GOH PUBLIC STATEMENT.

4. COMMENT: I EXPLAINED TO FOURCAND THAT THE RUMORS EMANATED FROM ALLEGED LEAKS OF THE PIERSON INTERVIEW WITH RAY JOSEPH OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. I POINTED OUT I HAD ALERTED FOREIGN SECRETARY RAYMOND TO THIS POSSIBILITY (P- AU- P 676). WHEN SCHEDULING CALL ON FOURCAND, ECONOMIC OFFICER SPECIFIED SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION, AND SINCE OUR APPOINTMENT WAS UNEXPECTEDLY DELAYED FOR HALF AN HOUR, WITH FOURCAND OUT OF THE BUILDING, I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT FOURCAND SOUGHT AND RECEIVED PALACE GUIDANCE BEFORE MEETING WITH US.
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